



Clermont County On The Move

a newsletter for citizens

Commissioners: Mary Walker, Bob Proud, and Scott Croswell

December 2004

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Prepare for Winter Weather Now

While falling snow may seem magical and ice on trees may look beautiful, winter weather can be dangerous. Melting snow and excessive rain may cause flooding, and ice may cause power outages, roofs to collapse, automobile crashes, and personal injury.

“Ohioans need to be prepared for severe winter weather, and that’s the message we’re hoping to get across,” said Ohio Governor Robert Taft. “I encourage Ohio families and businesses to follow the recommendations made by the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness so that we’re all prepared in case of a severe weather emergency.”

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness recommends these actions for severe winter weather preparedness:

Have a disaster preparedness plan. Every home, school and business should have a written plan for every possible weather or home emergency. Everyone should know what to do during snow or ice storms, power outages, floods, fires, or tornadoes.

Invest in a NOAA Weather Radio. Again, every home, school, and business should have a battery-backup weather radio. Weather radios are programmed to automatically sound and alert during weather watches and warnings. Attachments such as vibrating pager

devices and bed-shakers are available at electronics stores for the hearing impaired.



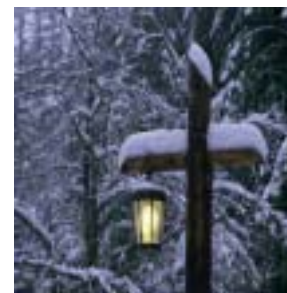
Be health-safe when partaking in outdoor activities. Dress in layers. Do not overexert yourself while shoveling snow or working outside. Be cautious of frostbite, hypothermia and other cold-related injuries.

Prepare disaster kits for the home and vehicle.

Winter emergency kits should include warm clothing, blankets, flashlights, batteries, coats, hats, gloves, a battery-operated radio, first aid kit, and enough nonperishable food and water to sustain each family member for at least 72 hours. Vehicles should maintain at least a half tank of gasoline.

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness is comprised of representatives from the American Red Cross, National Weather Service, Ohio Departments of Aging, Education, Health, Insurance and Natural Resources, Ohio Emergency Management Agency, State Fire Marshal, Emergency Management Association of Ohio, Ohio Insurance Institute, and the Ohio News Network.

For more information, please log onto www.ema.ohio.gov/weather.htm.



Library Magnification

By: Kristin Germann, Clermont Library

The Northeastern Lions Club made a "visionary" donation to the Owensville Branch of the Clermont County Public Library. They've donated a vision magnifier, which will help those suffering from sight problems read books, newspapers, and view photographs.

The Ohio Lions Club Foundation provided half the cost of the machine through a grant; the local Northeastern Lions Club generously matched the donation.

The vision magnifier uses a camera that enlarges the print onto a large television screen in full color or enhanced black and white. The Lions Club wants to help those in the community with vision problems enjoy the library. Known worldwide for their service to the blind and visually impaired, Lions Clubs International are committed to sight conservation.

Arthur Price, of Miami Township, suffers from macular degeneration. He says the new vision magnifier at the Owensville Branch will help him enjoy reading. The lighted screen helps him to read print that normally he would be unable to see. According to the American Macular Degeneration Foundation, macular degeneration is an incurable eye disease. It's the leading cause of blindness for those aged 55 and older in the United States; affecting more than 10 million Americans. Macular degeneration is caused by the deterioration of the central portion of the retina, known as the macula. The macula is responsible for focusing central vision in the eye. It affects the ability to read, drive a car, recognize faces or colors, and see objects in fine detail. As people age, their odds of developing eye diseases increase dramatically. Price encourages everyone over the age of 55 to have their eyes checked regularly.



Pictured above: Elizabeth Fiene, Owensville Branch Manager, watches Arthur Price of Miami Township, as he reads a book using the newly donated vision magnifier.

Records Center Moves

The Records Management Division has relocated from the Williamsburg facility to the Kahle Building in Batavia. Please leave a voice-mail or send an email for all records requests.



Our new contact address is: Records Management Division, 289 E. Main Street, Batavia, Ohio, 45103. Our phone number is (513) 735-8660 and our fax is (513)735-8665.

Service Salute

On Wednesday, November 10, 2004, Sheriff A.J. "Tim" Rodenberg held a noonhour recognition ceremony for men and women who serve our country and community.



From World War II veterans, to law enforcement/EMS personnel and emergency dispatchers, all were recognized for their community service.



December Commissioner Sessions

Thursday, Dec. 2	11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 7	11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 8	1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 14	11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 15	1:00 p.m.

All regular sessions are held in the third floor session room of the Clermont County Administration Building, 101 East Main Street in Batavia, Ohio. For agenda information, contact the BCC offices at (513) 732-7300.

MRDD Receives Top Honors from State

By: Lisa Davis, MRDD

The Clermont County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) is proud to announce their four-year accreditation from the Ohio Department of



MRDD. This accreditation process reviews MRDD Board policies and procedures in all 88 Ohio counties in the following areas: health and safety; rights of individuals with developmental disabilities; service planning and delivery; and administration.

Clermont County's first review was in 2001 and gave MRDD a two-year accreditation. The second review was completed last November, and showed a 77% improvement over the past two years; this qualified MRDD for a four-year accreditation.

In addition to the review, Clermont County MRDD received five commendations for going above and beyond to provide exemplary service to children and adults with developmental disabilities in Clermont County. The commendations are in the following areas: delegated nursing standards; the Partners in Justice program which presented MRDD and Mental Health information to judges, attorneys, and law enforcement agencies; Early Intervention Services for collaborating with Head Start to offer a day care for children with disabilities at the Wildey Center; the Regional Infant Hearing Program, which provides hearing services to children in 9 counties in Southern Ohio—Clermont County MRDD is the only MRDD program to operate this grant in Ohio; and the last commendation was awarded for integrating the Auditor of State's Performance Audit into the MRDD strategic planning process.

Don Bashaw, Assistant Deputy Director from the Ohio Department of MRDD, presented the accreditation document to the Clermont County Board on October 27. "I think it is important for everyone to understand the quality of the staff that provide services to people in Clermont County," said Bashaw. "They have developed a culture of excellence (in Clermont County) and it seems the only thing that is acceptable in this organization is excellence for the people you serve." The new accreditation will extend through April 30, 2008.

Pictured above: (standing) MRDD Board Members Tom Wildey and Wanda Downey; Assistant Deputy Director Don Bashaw (seated) MRDD Board Members Dolly McCall and Sheila Madden

Fourth Annual Best Dog Contest

By: Jenni Summers, Auditor's Office

Clermont County Auditor Linda Fraley, the Board of Clermont County Commissioners, the Clermont County Humane Society, and Merial, Ltd., invite all Clermont County residents in kindergarten through sixth grades to participate in the fourth annual "Best Dog in Clermont County" contest.

The art/essay contest is designed to increase awareness about the many adoptable pets currently available at the Humane Society Animal Shelter, and the importance of dog licensing and proper pet care. Last year, more than 700 entries were received.

Information packets have been sent to all Clermont County elementary and intermediate schools inviting students to participate in the contest. Regardless of school location, all Clermont County kindergarten through sixth grade students are eligible to participate.



Entries will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., Monday, January 17, 2005. Entries should be mailed or dropped off to the Clermont County Auditor's Office, 101 E. Main Street, Batavia, Ohio 45103. Judging will be completed in January and the winners will be recognized during a special ceremony at the end of the month. For additional information contact the Auditor's Office at 732-7152.

Library Happenings

By: Tammy Craig, Clermont Public Library

New Teen Anime Club

Beginning Monday, December 6, 3:15 p.m.
Teens are invited to review the latest anime titles in a round table discussion, and let the library know what you think. For more information, call the library at 732-2128.

Gingerbread House Decorating

Tuesday, December 7, 6:00 p.m., and Saturday, December 11, 11:00 a.m.

Milford-Miami Township Library
Families are invited to decorate their own gingerbread house in time for the holidays. All supplies will be provided by the library. For more information or to register for the program, call the library at 248-0700.



Holiday Storytime

Monday, December 6, 7:00 p.m.
Owensville Branch

Listen to stories and visit with a mysterious guest who dresses in red, has a twinkle in his eye, and whose belly shakes like a bowl full of jelly when he laughs! Bring your camera. For more information or to register for the program, call the library at 732-6084.

Josefina's Holiday Tea Party

Wednesday, December 15
Owensville Branch Library

Child in grades kindergarten through sixth are invited to this special holiday tea featuring American Girl, Josefina. Discover Spanish customs and traditions of the holiday season. Be sure to bring your doll! For more information or to register for the program, call the library at 732-6084.



Make a Gingerbread House

Saturday, December 11, 2:00 p.m., and
Monday, December 13, 7:00 p.m.

Union Twp. Branch Library

Families are invited to make a gingerbread house for the holidays. All supplies will be provided by the library. For more information or to register for the program, call the library at 528-1744.



Out of Character Tuesdays

Tuesdays in December, 7:00 p.m.
Williamsburg Branch Library

All ages are invited to discover worlds like no other at a weekly meeting of role playing gamers. Bring your games, comic books to trade, and your Gameboy. For more information or to register for the program, call the library at 724-1070.

Have Room for Me?



My name is Bugle and I am one of the many adorable animals now available for adoption.

Clermont Animal Shelter
732-8854

Corrections Officers' Week

By: Lynda Ellis, Clermont Jail

Corrections Officers' Week at the Clermont County Jail kicked off on Monday, November 8, 2004, with the presentation of 25 items to staff, everything from gift certificates to gift baskets full of goodies! This week was designed to express appreciation for all the hard work officers and staff do each day.

Monday was coffee and doughnuts day, Tuesday was cotton candy day, Wednesday was white chicken chili day (a big hit), Thursday was ice cream sundaes, and Friday was special meal day offered by the cafeteria staff.

We would like to thank the following businesses: Charles J. Miller Insurance, Cracker Barrel of Milford, Elks Run Golf Course, Fazoli's, Friendly Meadows Golf Course, Frisch's of Bethel, Galaxy Hair Salon, Golf Galaxy, Goshen Chiropractic Clinic, Hampton Inn of Eastgate, Holiday Inn at Eastgate, Kohl's of Eastgate, Lindale Golf Course, Midway Theater, Tony Roma's, and Toomey Foods.

Mental Health Symposium Held

By: Julie Peterson, Adult Probation

Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton and Ohio Department of Mental Health Director Michael Hogan were keynote speakers at a mental health symposium held on October 15, 2004, at the Batavia Armory Banquet and Conference Center. Justice Stratton and Director

Hogan focused on the growing number of individuals with mental illness in the adult criminal justice system. They discussed the importance of local agencies collaborating to divert mentally ill individuals from local and state incarceration, and the national trends associated with criminal justice programming in addressing mental illness.

Opening remarks at the symposium were provided by Common Pleas Court Judge William Walker, Sheriff A. J. Rodenberg and Karen Scherra, the executive director of the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board.

One of the symposium's highlights was a presentation by a group of individuals from Hancock County, Ohio, who had implemented a Crisis Intervention Team [CIT] in their local criminal justice system. The team discussed procedures that assist the law enforcement community to better serve nonviolent mentally ill persons who become involved in the criminal justice system.

CIT programs have been successful in diverting numerous individuals out of the criminal justice system. Planning CIT programs have helped communi-

ties to identify and develop resources needed to better serve this population with treatment intervention rather than incarceration.



Justice Stratton

The symposium brought together 35 different criminal justice and mental health agencies. Some of the agencies represented included the Sheriff's Office, Clermont Mercy Hospital, Prosecutor's Office, Public Defender's Office, Clermont Counseling Center, Court personnel and members of the Clermont County Bar Association. Consumers of local mental health services and members from the Clermont County Chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill [NAMI] were among the 115 individuals in attendance.

An afternoon panel of Clermont County mental health and criminal justice representatives shared the challenges and issues associated with providing alternative services to

mentally ill individuals being identified in the criminal justice system. The panel included Judge James Shriver – Municipal Court, Lieutenant David Barr – Clermont County Jail, Stan Raymond – Director of Behavioral Medicine at Clermont Mercy Hospital, R. Daniel Hannon – Public Defender's Office, Mary Lynne Birck – Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Judge William Walker – Common Pleas Court, and Karen Scherra – Executive Director of the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board.

The symposium was sponsored by the Clermont County Common Pleas Court through funding received by the Byrne Memorial Grant, sponsored by the Office



of Criminal Justice Services, matched by the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board. As a result of the success of the

symposium, a new task force was formed that will hopefully implement a collaborative process to assist the criminal justice system in providing alternatives to incarceration for appropriate individuals.

Oh Christmas Tree!

Did you know that in the first week, a tree in your home will consume a gallon of water?



Clermont Park Events

By: Keith Robinson, Park Dist.

Backyard Birding Basics, Hartman Log Cabin

Wednesday, December 8, 7:00 p.m.

Birdwatching is quickly becoming one of America's most popular hobbies. Learn how to attract birds to your backyard, and what types of food they prefer. Due to space limitations, reservations are required. Please call 513-876-9013 to register.

Owl Prowl, Sycamore Park

Friday, December 17, 6:00 p.m.

Winter is a great time to search for owls and other nocturnal animals. Meet at the information kiosk.

Winter Hike Series, Crooked Run Nature Preserve

Saturday, December 18, 10:00 a.m.

Follow the Naturalist on this brisk 60-90 minute walk through Clermont County's only state dedicated nature preserve. See deer, beavers, and many other critters. Meet at the nature preserve parking lot in Chilo Lock #34 Park.

The Clermont County Park District hosted a "Turkey Talk" program on Tuesday, November 23, at Pattison



Lodge. Children and their parents got to meet a mounted turkey, and learn about the life history of these amazing birds. They made a turkey cookie and craft to take home.

Protect Your Pet from Rabies

On Sunday, December 5, 2004, the Clermont County General Health District, in partnership with *All Creatures Animal Hospital*, will be holding a low cost rabies vaccination clinic for dogs and cats. The clinic will be held between 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the *All Creatures Animal Hospital*, located at 1894 Ohio Pike in Amelia.

The fee for vaccination will be \$5, payable in cash only. All dogs must be leashed and all cats must be in a carrier. A three year vaccine will be administered to all animals for which proper documentation of current vaccination status is provided. All others will receive a one year vaccine. A rabies tag alone will not be sufficient documentation of current vaccination status. Rabies is an invariably fatal virus, annually killing approximately 50,000 people worldwide. While the virus is endemic in the wild animal population in the U.S., human deaths are rare here with only one case every year or two. The principal credit for such low incidence is surveillance for the disease and the

widespread vaccination of dogs and cats in the U.S., which serve as a bridge between infected wild animals and humans.

Ohio is currently experiencing a rabies epidemic, which reached NE Ohio in 1997 after marching across Pennsylvania at 25 – 50 miles per year.

This epidemic is predominantly infecting the raccoon population, but can easily infect dogs, cats, and people as well. The efforts to contain this epidemic center on the vaccination of dogs and cats, increased surveillance, and the distribution of oral rabies vaccine targeted at the wild raccoon population. While these public health efforts have been very successful at slowing the spread, the containment barrier has been substantially



By: Rob Perry, General Health District

breeched this summer, and the virus continues its southern and western spread.

The Health District is preparing for the eventual arrival of the epidemic.

We have increased surveillance locally, and are organizing these low cost rabies vaccination clinics in an effort to increase the rate of rabies vaccination among Clermont County's dog and cat population, currently at 41% for dogs and 21% for cats. Everyone can help by ensuring their pets are current on their vaccines, and are welcome to take advantage of this opportunity and bring your animals in. You can call Joshua Lane or Rob Perry at 732-7499 with any questions.

On the Move is a service of the Board of Clermont County Commissioners. For more information about any of the articles included in this publication, contact Kathy Lehr or Bobbi Padgett at **732-7597**.

